

the stretchable portion (A2-2) having a relatively great straining force includes two portions projecting toward the lateral side and covering a part of the inferior region and a part of the superior region of the patella, respectively;

the stretchable portion (B') having a relatively great straining force includes two portions projecting toward the medial side and covering a part of the inferior region and a part of the superior region of the patella, respectively;

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C 6*
said two projecting portions of the stretchable portion (A2-2) having a relatively great straining force are arranged at positions opposite to said two projecting portions of the stretchable portion (B') having a relatively great straining force, respectively, the positions being slightly shifted to the inferior side from positions of said two portions of the stretchable portion (B') having a relatively great straining force, respectively;

and

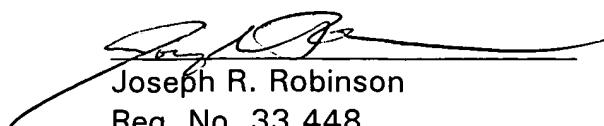
when viewed from the front, the portion of the stretchable portion (A2-2) having a relatively great straining force that covers the inferior region of the patella has a relatively greater area.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-33 are pending. The specification and claims 15 and 16 have been amended to further clarify the use of reference numerals and

references to Figures. No new matter has been inserted. Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: 9643/0L340

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Takako FUJII; Makoto OYAMA

Serial No.: 10/030,367

Art Unit: 3765

Confirmation No.: 8711

Filed: January 2, 2002

Examiner: Alissa L. Hoey

For: TIGHTS-TYPE LEG SUPPORT GARMENT

MARK UP TO ACCOMPANY THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 43, please replace the first full paragraph with the following substitute paragraph:

The garment of the present embodiment is a leg support garment in which the portion expressed as the stretchable portion (A) having a relatively great straining force is a stretchable portion [(A2')] (A2-2) 142 having a relatively great straining force, and the stretchable part having a relatively great straining force

further includes a stretchable portion (B') 143 having a relatively great straining force. The stretchable portion [(A2')] (A2-2) 142 having a relatively great straining force substantially covers the ligamentum collaterale 3 on the medial side of the knee joint of the human body, extends approximately along a vicinity of a periphery of the patella 1 on the medial side thereof so as to surround the patella 1 through at least more than approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the periphery of the patella 1 and to cover a part of inferior and superior regions 4 and 11 of the patella, and reaches a side 5 of the musculus gastrocnemius and the musculus soleus on the medial side. Further, on the superior side of the knee joint, in the femoral region, the stretchable portion [(A2')] (A2-2) 142 having a relatively great straining force extends approximately along the musculus semitendinosus and the musculus gracilis, and reaches the vicinity below the crotch 24 and a vicinity of the sulcus gluteus 22. The stretchable portion (B') 143 having a relatively great straining force extends from a side part of the waist 10 approximately along the tractus iliotibialis 9 via a vicinity of the trochanter major 8, then, approximately along the tractus iliotibialis 9 to the lateral side of the patella 1, surrounds the patella 1 through approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ or more of the periphery of the patella 1 so as to cover a part of an inferior region 32 and a superior region 33 of the patella 1, and passes a side 15 of the musculus gastrocnemius and the musculus soleus on the lateral side.

On pages 43-44, please replace the last paragraph starting on page 43 and ending on page 44 with the following substitute paragraph:

In the foregoing embodiment, two portions 4 and 11 of the stretchable portion [(A2')] (A2-2) 142 having relatively great straining forces project toward the medial side therefrom and cover a part of the inferior region 4 and a part of the superior region 11 of the patella 1, respectively. Besides, two portions 32 and 33 of the stretchable portion (B') 143 having relatively great straining forces project toward the lateral side therefrom and cover a part of the inferior region 32 and a part of the superior region 33 of the patella 1, respectively. Here, the two portions 4 and 11 of the stretchable [(A2')] (A2-2) 142 having a relatively great straining force are arranged opposite to the two portions 32 and 33 of the stretchable portion (B') 143 having a relatively great straining force, respectively, and at positions slightly shifted to the inferior side from positions of the portions 32 and 33 of the stretchable portion (B') 143 having a relatively great straining force, respectively. Furthermore, when viewed from the front the portion covering the inferior region 4 of the patella 1, of the stretchable portion [(A2')] (A2-2) 142 having a relatively great straining force, has a relatively greater area.

On pages 44-45, please replace the last paragraph starting on page 44 and ending on page 45 with the following substitute paragraph:

As described above, in the foregoing embodiment, as to the two portions 4 and 11 of the stretchable portion [(A2')] (A2-2) 142 having a relatively great straining force that project to the lateral side and cover a part of the inferior region 4 and a part of the superior region 11 of the patella 1, respectively, and the two portions 32 and 33 of the stretchable portion (B') 143 having a relatively great straining force that project to the medial side and cover a part of the inferior region 32 and a part of the superior region 33 of the patella 1, respectively, the position of the projecting portion 4 is slightly inferior to the position of the projecting portion 32, and the position of the projecting portion 11 is slightly inferior to the position of the projecting portion 33. Therefore, this provides the support of the knee joint as if pulling the medial side thereof having fewer muscles more intensely from the inferior side, thereby reinforcing the support of the ligamentum collaterale medialis, which is preferable. However, the projecting portion 4 may be at a position as high as the position of the projecting portion 32, or the projecting portion 11 may be at a position as high as a position of the projecting portion 33. Besides, the two portions 4 and 11 projecting toward the lateral side may further extend over the central line of the anterior side of the leg toward the lateral side, while the portions 32 and 33 opposite thereto may further extend over the central line of the anterior side of the leg toward the medial side. Alternatively, the projecting portions 4 and 32 may be connected with each other, and likewise, the projecting portions 11 and 33 may be connected

with each other. Furthermore, the projecting portion 4 may be located at a position shifted slightly to the superior side of the projecting portion 32, while the projecting portion 11 may be located at a position shifted slightly to the superior side of the projecting portion 33.

On pages 62-63, please replace the last paragraph starting on page 62 and ending on page 63 with the following substitute paragraph:

The garment of the present embodiment is a garment as a modification of the embodiment show in FIGS.[85 to 88] 93 to 96; namely, in the garment of the embodiment shown in FIGS. [85 to 88] 93 to 96, the stretchable portion (A²¹) 121a having a relatively great straining force and the stretchable portion (B²) 124a having a relatively great straining force are brought in contact with each other at a position on the inferior side of the patella. Therefore, the same portions as those of the embodiment shown in FIGS. [85 to 88] 93 to 96 are designated with the same reference numerals in the drawings and descriptions of the same are omitted.

IN THE CLAIMS:

15. (Amended) The leg support garment according to claim 3, wherein:

the portion expressed as the stretchable portion (A) having a relatively great straining force is a stretchable portion [(A2')] (A2-2) having a relatively great

straining force that:

substantially covers the ligamentum collaterale on the medial side of the knee joint of the human body;

extends approximately along a vicinity of a periphery of the patella on a medial side thereof;

surrounds the patella through at least approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ or more of the periphery of the patella so as to cover at least a part of inferior and superior regions of the patella, and reaches a side of the musculus gastrocnemius and/or the musculus soleus on the medial side; and

on a superior side of the knee joint, extends approximately along at least one selected from the musculus group consisting of the musculus semitendinosus, the musculus semimembranosus, and the musculus gracilis, and reaches a vicinity below the crotch and a vicinity of the sulcus gluteus;

and,

the stretchable part having a relatively great straining force further includes a stretchable portion (B') having a relatively great straining force that:

extends from a side part of the waist approximately along the tractus iliotibialis via a vicinity of the trochanter major, then, approximately along the tractus iliotibialis to a lateral side of the patella;

surrounds the patella through approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ or more of the periphery of the patella so as to cover at least a part of inferior and superior regions of the patella; and

passes a side of the musculus gastrocnemius and/or the musculus soleus on the lateral side.

16. (Amended) The leg support garment according to claim 15, wherein:

the stretchable portion [(A2')] (A2-2) having a relatively great straining force includes two portions projecting toward the lateral side and covering a part of the inferior region and a part of the superior region of the patella, respectively;

the stretchable portion (B') having a relatively great straining force includes two portions projecting toward the medial side and covering a part of the inferior region and a part of the superior region of the patella, respectively;

said two projecting portions of the stretchable portion [(A2')] (A2-2) having a relatively great straining force are arranged at positions opposite to said two projecting portions of the stretchable portion (B') having a relatively great straining force, respectively, the positions being slightly shifted to the inferior side from positions of said two portions of the stretchable portion (B') having a relatively great straining force, respectively;

and

when viewed from the front, the portion of the stretchable portion [(A2')]
(A2-2) having a relatively great straining force that covers the inferior region of the patella has a relatively greater area.